Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

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UNCLAS BELGRADE 6103

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, YO, IT

SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV PORTRAYAL OF ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV AGREEMENT

1. LOCAL PRESS, REFLECTING OFFICIAL GOY POSITION, HAS EXTENSIVELY AND FAVORABLY PORTRAYED YUGOSLAV-ITALIAN AGREEMENT AS YUGOSLAV FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESS IN BILATERAL RELATIONS, POTENTIAL ECONOMIC BOON TO YUGOSLAVIA AND FIRST MAJOR INTERNATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENT AFTER AND IN SPIRIT OF HELSINKI.

2. NOVEMBER 10 SIGNING CEREMONY AT SAN PEITRO NEAR ANCONA EXTENSIVELY COVERED IN YUGOSLAV PRESS WITH QUOTES FROM STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN MINISTERS MINIC AND RUMOR. YUGOSLAV PRESS ALSO PLAYED UP FAVORABLE REACTION TO AGREEMENT IN ITALIAN PRESS. YUGOSLAVS PRESENT AGREEMENT AS TURNING POINT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS WHICH HAVE LONG BEEN ENCUMBERED BY DISAGREEMENT OVER BORDER, THUS WEEKLY NEWS MAGAZINE NIN'S COVER "BRIDGE OF TRUST" AND FEATURE STORY " ADRIATIC PEACE". ARMY JOURNAL "NARODNA ARMIJA" REPEATS MINIC'S ASSESSMENT THAT THROUGH AGREEMENT ADRIATIC IS BECOMING A HEAVEN OF PEACE AND GOOD NEIGHBOR RELATIONS. "NIN" ALSO EMPHASIZES POTENTIAL ECONOMIC ADVANTAGES TO YUGOSLAVIA IN AGREEMENT'S PROVISIONS FOR UNCLASSIFIED

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FREE ZONE ON BORDER NEAR TRIESTE.

3. EDITORIALS ALSO IMPART SIGNIFICANCE TO AGREEMENT AS OUTGROWTH OF CSCE. SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS--E.G., SEMI-OFFICIAL "BORBA", "NIN" AND WEEKLY "EKONOMSKA POLITIKA"--DESCRIBED AGREEMENT AS FIRST MAJOR INTERNATION ACT AFTER HELSINKI. IT IS ALSO HAILED AS ITALIAN-YUGOSLAV CONTRIBUTION TO CREATION OF SPIRIT OF HELSINKI AND AN EXAMPLE FOR OTHER STATES TO FOLLOW. SILBERMAN

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